



State of California • Environmental Protection Agency
Integrated Waste Management Board

HUMBOLDT COUNTY RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE



ZONE INFORMATION

Humboldt County is located on the northern coast of California in the heart of the timber industry. The Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) encompasses the entire county, including the incorporated cities of Trinidad, Blue Lake, Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna, Ferndale, and Rio Dell. The nearest major metropolitan centers are 250 miles to the south (San Francisco) and 400 miles to the north (Portland, Ore.).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

California Recycling Market Development Zones are designated by the Integrated Waste Management Board. The Board offers low-interest loans up to \$1 million, technical assistance on financing strategies, and assistance in marketing zones nationally and internationally. For more information on this program and other market development programs, contact the Board's Recycling Business Assistance Branch at (916) 255-1000.

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TARGET MATERIALS

Available feedstock materials for manufacturing include, but are not limited to wood waste, ferrous metals, cardboard, food waste, and newspaper.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Highway service is available from State Highways 101 and 299. United Airlines and Horizon Airlines provide daily freight and passenger service from the Arcata/Eureka airport, and a publicly owned railroad serves the zone. Humboldt Bay is the only California deep water port north of San Francisco, and is being developed to accommodate large freighters and tankers. There are eight business parks on 850 acres, plus an additional 1,200 acres, county-wide, of vacant land presently zoned for commercial and industrial development. Eureka offers ocean access buildings on Humboldt Bay, and the largest building complex in the zone is 406,000 square feet on 209 acres, with rail access.

EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVES

A survey by California Business Magazine found that Humboldt County, with a skilled labor rate of \$7.25 per hour, had the lowest labor cost in 26 labor markets. Currently that figure is up to \$8.50 per hour. Along with 7.5 percent unemployment rate, the county has low industrialization and a sizable California State University campus, making it a year-round employer's market. Skilled labor in light manufacturing and modest fees for labor training are available through the College of the Redwoods, the Private Industry Council, and local agencies.

INCENTIVES

The City of Eureka is a designated California Enterprise Zone, which offers credits dealing with hiring, equipment, sales, and personal tax. Local jurisdictions have minimized start-up times and costs for permitting of recycling-based industries. The Northcoast Small Business Development Center is available to assist with business plan development. The Redwood Region Economic Development Corporation offers revolving loans throughout the county, ranging from \$2,500 to \$150,000. The cities of Arcata, Fortuna, and Eureka offer similar loans, limited to projects within their respective city limits. Small Business Administration loans of up to \$1 million are also available. Pacific Gas and Electric offers incentives for commercial businesses within the zone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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